

VFC-AFIX Initiative

In order to expand the benefits of AFIX to the private sector, which now vaccinates nearly 80% of children in the US, NIP launched an initiative to incorporate assessment and feedback activities during Vaccines for Children (VFC) provider site visits. This initiative links two highly successful programs - AFIX and VFC - and focuses on increasing quality assurance activities within provider offices enrolled in the VFC program.

VFC is a federal program that purchases vaccines for eligible children who meet one of the following requirements: qualify for Medicaid; no insurance; Native American or Alaska Native; or underinsured. All states *are* participating in this program, which enjoys broad physician support. Over 44,000 provider sites participate in the program, primarily in the private sector. The VFC program benefits providers as well as children by reducing cost as a barrier and encouraging kids to stay in a medical home.

VFC provider site visits are conducted to review compliance with VFC eligibility requirements and to evaluate vaccine storage and handling procedures. These VFC site visits provide an excellent opportunity to introduce and include assessment and feedback of immunization service delivery practices.